

*Report of the Curator, Zoological Department.*

(Continued from page 90.)

VII. From the Melbourne Institution. A collection of Mammals and birds, the skin of one reptile and that of a fish.\*

The Mammals are—

Of PLACENTALIA Fam. MURIDÆ,—

\*HAPALOTIS APICALIS, Gray, *P. Z. S.* 1851, p. 126. (2 specimens).

\*H. MITCHELLII; *Dipus Mitchellii* Ogilby, *Tr. L. Soc.* XVIII., 129. (2).

\*MUS—? Length 4 in., with tail about 3 in.; hind foot  $\frac{1}{16}$  in.: ear-conch small, posteriorly  $\frac{3}{8}$  in. Fur straight, rather long, of the ordinary rat-brown above, ashy beneath, and the feet somewhat albescent; tail clad with short hairs, blackish above, albescent below. (2).

\*MUS—? Like a diminutive HAPALOTIS, with the exception of the tail. Length  $3\frac{1}{4}$  or  $3\frac{1}{2}$  in., with tail  $2\frac{1}{2}$  in.; hind foot  $\frac{3}{4}$  in.; ear-conch ample,  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. long posteriorly. Colour light brown above, the tips of the hairs black upon the back; below pure white, abruptly separated from the hue of the upper parts; tail dark above, whitish below and tolerably well clad; feet white. (2).

Of MARSUPIALIA,—

\*PHASCOGALE CRASSICAUDATA; *Podabrus crassicaudatus*, Gould, *P. Z. S.* 1844, p. 105; Mammals of Australia, pt. I. pl. 5; Waterhouse, *Mamm. I.*, 428. (2).

\*PERAMELES OBESULA; *Didelphys obesula*, Shaw; Waterhouse, *Mamm. I.*, 368. (2).

\*P. GUNNII, Gray; Waterhouse, *Mamm. I.*, 376.

\*BETTONGIA GRAII; *Hypsiprymnus Graii*, Gould, *P. Z. S.* 1840, p. 178; Waterhouse, *Mamm. I.*, 203. (2).

\*HYPSPRYMNUS RUFESCENS; *Bettongia rufescens*, Gray, *M. N. H. n. s.*, I. (1837), 584: *Hypsiprymnus melanotis*, Gould, *Monogr.* pt. 2; Waterhouse, *Mamm. I.*, 196.

\*MACROPUS FRÆNATUS, Gould, *P. Z. S.* 1840, p. 92; Gould, *Monogr.* pt. I. pl. 13. (2). Also skull.

\* Species new to the Society's museum are distinguished by having an asterisk prefixed.

M. GIGANTEUS; *Didelphys gigantea*, Schreber; Waterhouse, *Mamm.* I. 62. Adult male; and female sent as *M. ocydromus*, Gould, *Ann. Mag. N. H.*, X. (1842), p. 1,—considered by Mr. Waterhouse to be a variety of the former. We had previously but a small example of this species, with its skeleton.

The Birds are—

LICMETIS NASICUS; *Cacatua nasica*, Temminck: Gould's *B. Austr.* V. 5.

\*CACATUA LEADBEATERI, Vigors: Gould's *B. Austr.* V. 2.

\*POLYTELIS MELANURA; *Palæornis melanura*, Vigors: Gould's *B. Austr.* V. 16. (2).

PLATYCERCUS FLAVEOLUS, Gould's *B. Austr.* V. 25. (2).

PL. BARNARDII, Vigors and Horsfield: Gould's *B. Austr.* V. 21. (2).

\*PSEPHOTUS HÆMATOGASTER, Gould's *B. Austr.* V. 33. (2).

\*PS. MULTICOLOR; *Psittacus multicolor*, Temminck; Gould's *B. Austr.* V. 35. (2).

PS. HÆMATONOTUS, Gould's *B. Austr.* V. 36.

EUPHEMA CHRYSOSTOMA; *Psittacus chrysostomus*, Kuhl.: Gould's *B. Austr.* V. 37. (2).

MEROPS ORNATUS, Latham; Gould's *B. Austr.* II. 16. (2).

This would appear to be the only Australian Bee-eater. It is not, however, peculiar to Australia; for Mr. Wallace lately obtained it in Ternate (*P. Z. S.* 1860, p. 348). It is not generally known among ornithologists; that the SCYTHROPS NOVÆ HOLLANDIÆ has been procured in Celebes and Batchian—apparently the limit of its equatorial migration.

CUCULUS INORNATUS, Vigors and Horsfield: Gould's *B. Austr.* IV. 85. (2).

C. CINERACEUS, Vigors and Horsfield: Gould's *B. Austr.* IV. 86.

CHRYSOCOCCYX LUCIDUS; *Cuculus lucidus*, Gmelin; Gould's *B. Austr.* IV. 89.

GRALLINA PICATA; *Gracula picata*, Latham: Gould's *B. Austr.* II. 54. (2).

\*CHLAMYDERA MACULATA, Gould's *B. Austr.* IV. 8. (2).

\*CINCLOSOMA CASTANOTUS, Gould's *B. Austr.* IV. 5. (2).

FALCUNCULUS GOULDI, Cabanis; *F. frontatus*, (Latham), *apud* Gould's *B. Austr.* II. 79. (2).

OREOICA CRISTATA; *Turdus cristatus*, Lewin: Gould's *B. Austr.* II. 81. (2).

\*SPHENOSTOMA CRISTATUM, Gould's *B. Austr.* III. 17.

\*POMATORHINUS SUPERCILIOSUS, Vigors and Horsfield; Gould's *B. Austr.* IV. 22.

\*P. PILEATUS, nobis, *n. s.* Distinguished from the last by having a bright ferruginous-brown cap, bordered by the white *supercilia*, and conspicuous white tips to the wing-coverts and tertiaries: the feet also are more robust. Sent as male of the preceding race; the sexes of which (according to Mr. Gould) are quite similar in plumage.

\*CLIMACTERIS ERYTHROPS, Gould, *var.?* (CL. AFFINIS, nobis, *n. s.?*). Like CL. ERYTHROPS, but with slight pale non-rufous *supercilia*, which are not conspicuously noticeable: throat dull whitish, passing to greyish on breast, and a small central ferruginous spot at base of throat: ear-coverts pale, streaked. Specimen doubtless of the female sex.

\*SITTELLA PILEATA, Gould's *B. Austr.* IV. 104.

COLLURICINCLA HARMONICA; *Turdus harmonicus*, Latham: Gould's *B. Austr.* II. 74. (3).\*

\*PACHYCEPHALA GILBERTII, Gould's *B. Austr.* II. 71.

P. RUFIVENTRIS; *Sylvia rufiventris*, Latham: *P. pectoralis* apud Gould's *B. Austr.* II. 67. (2).

PETROICA BICOLOR, Swainson: Gould's *B. Austr.* III. 7. (2).

\*P. GOODENOVII *Muscicapa Goodenovii*, Vigors and Horsfield: Gould's *B. Austr.* III. 5.

\*MALURUS MELANOTUS, Gould's *B. Austr.* III. 21. (2).

SEISURA INQUIETA; *Turdus inquietus*, Latham: Gould's *B. Austr.* II. 87.

\*RHIPIDURA (?) MOTACILLOIDES, Vigors and Horsfield: Gould's *B. Austr.* II. 85.

\* Gould, in his 'Birds of Australia,' restricts the range of C. HARMONICA to E. and S. Australia, and of C. SELBII to Tasmania. We have, however, both types alike from Port Philip or Victoria land and Van Dieman's land: but, in each case, offering a certain amount of difference. C. SELBII, from Port Philip, has rather a small bill, the throat is but slightly albescent, and the breast not at all so, but uniform brownish-ashy, passing to sullied white on the belly and lower tail coverts. Length of bill to gape  $1\frac{1}{4}$  in., in the Tasmanian bird  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in.; of closed wing respectively  $5\frac{1}{4}$  in., and 5 in.; and tail  $4\frac{1}{4}$  and 4 in.: the Port Philip bird being thus the larger of the two, but having a conspicuously smaller bill. The Tasmanian C. HARMONICA accords in dimensions with the continental race; but its plumage is altogether browner, having the ashy tinge much weaker.

GRAUCALUS MENTALIS, Vigors and Horsfield : Gould's *B. Austr.* II. 56. (4).

ARTAMUS SORDIDUS ; *Turdus sordidus*, Latham : Gould's *B. Austr.* II. 27. (2).

\*A. LEUCOPYGIALIS, Gould's *B. Austr.* II. 33. Of two specimens sent, one is wholly undistinguishable from A. LEUCORHYNCHUS, (L), from the Andaman islands (!) ; while the other has rather more of white upon the rump.

MANORHINA GARRULA ; *Merops garrulus*, Latham : Gould's *B. Austr.* IV. 76.

\*PLECTORHYNCHA LANCEOLATA, Gould's *B. Austr.* IV. 47.

\*MELITHREPTUS GULARIS, Gould's *B. Austr.* IV. 71.

ENTOMYZA CYANOTIS ; *Gracula cyanotis*, Latham : Gould's *B. Austr.* IV. 68.

\*TROPIDORHYNCHUS CITREOGULARIS, Gould's *B. Austr.* IV. 60. (2).

ACANTHOGENYS RUFOGULARIS, Gould's *B. Austr.* IV. 53. (2).

\*PTILOTTIS SONORUS, Gould's *B. Austr.* IV. 33.

\*OCYPHAPS LOPHOTES ; *Columba lophotes* Temminck, Gould's *B. Austr.* V. 70. (2).

GEOPELIA TRANQUILLA, Gould's *B. Austr.* V. 73. (L).

DROMAIUS NOVÆ-HOLLANDIÆ ; *Casuaris novæ-hollandiæ*, Latham : Gould's *B. Austr.* VI. 1. Young.

ERYTHROGONYS CINCTUS, Gould's *B. Austr.* VI. 21.

\*ARDEA PACIFICA, Latham : Gould's *B. Austr.* VI. 52. (2).

BOTAURUS MELANOTUS, G. R. Gray : Gould's *B. Austr.* VI. 64. (2).

LARUS (GABIANUS) PACIFICUS, Latham, *apud* Bonap., *nec apud* Gould ; young. We have another Australian example in similar plumage ; and a third, from the Cape of Good Hope, in adult plumage (*J. A. S.* XXIX. 101.). A much larger bird, otherwise similar, but of which the black of the mantle of the adult is less intense, we also possess, from Australia : and this I take to be L. (GABIANUS) GEORGI, King, *apud* Bonap. (*pacificus* *apud* Gould's *B. Austr.* VII. pl. 19) : but Mr. Gould combines, in his figure of the adult, the greater size of the latter race, with the deeper-black mantle of the former ; stating, that his figures are about two-thirds of the natural dimensions. Length of closed wing, of the larger race,  $18\frac{1}{2}$  in. ; of the smaller, 15 in.

XEMA NOVÆ-HOLLANDIÆ ; *Larus novæ-hollandiæ*, Stephens : Gould's *B. Austr.* VII. 20.

\**THALASSEUS POLIOCERCUS*, Gould's *B. Austr.* VII. 24.

\**PHALACROCORAX CARBOIDES*, Gould's *B. Austr.* VII. 66.

Undistinguishable, so far as I could perceive, from *PH. CARBO* of the northern hemisphere.

The Reptile is—

*HYDROSAURUS VARIUS*; *Lacerta varia*, Shaw. Specimen exceeding 55 in. in length; and distinct from another Australian *HYDROSAURUS* in the Society's Museum, which I have hitherto supposed to be the *H. VARIUS*. The latter may be described as

*H. OCELLARIUS*, nobis, *n. s.* Scales on the head and face very much smaller than in *H. VARIUS* and *H. SALVATOR*; those on the neck also smaller; and the transverse rows of scales upon the tail are uniform in size throughout, and on its lower surface are much smaller than in the others: the claws also are weaker and less hooked. Colour blackish; a yellow stripe from the eye, and another from the gape continued along the sides of the neck: sides of the body with numerous transverse rows of yellow rings, which are continued across the back more distinctly posteriorly: a series of well-defined narrow yellow stripes crossing the tail, the tip and under surface of which are spotless yellowish; rest of the under-parts freckled with black scales: limbs spotted and barred with yellow, including the upper surface of the toes. Length of specimen about 32 in.\*

The Fish is—

*HETERODONTUS PHILIPPI*; *Squalus Philippi*, Bloch Schneider; *Cestracion Philippi*, Agassiz; *C. Quoyi*, de Framenville. 'Port Jackson Shark.'

VIII. Bábu Rajendra Mallika. Several dead animals: among them a bull Gayál (*BOS FRONTALIS*); a doe fallow deer; a large male pig-tailed monkey (*INUUS NEMESTRINUS*); and a hybrid monkey, a cross between the preceding individual and a female of the Cape

\* Specimens of a *HYDROSAURUS* from the Andaman and Nicobar islands appear to differ only in colouring from *H. SALVATOR*; the transverse rows of *ocelli* upon the body being rarely traceable, however, faintly, while the entire upper surface is besprinkled with dull yellow scales. The *H. SALVATOR* I obtained at Mergui; and *MONITOR DRACONA* at Patpoung, upper Martaban. The length which Dr. Gray assigns to his Australian *H. GIGANTEUS*, viz. 78 in., is commonly attained by *H. SALVATOR*. We have one of that length from Ceylon, and have seen several from Lower Bengal. It appears to be the ordinary length of the full grown animal.

Baboon (*CYNOCEPHALUS PORCARIUS*). The last is, I believe, the first instance of a *hybrid monkey* on record. The infantile specimen resembles much the young of the *NEMESTRINUS*, but has the considerably more developed tail of the *PORCARIUS*. The two parents had been long kept together.

IX. Lt. Beavan, now with the Darjiling sappers. Skull of an Otter (*AONYX*), killed near the road from Calcutta to Barrackpore. Also sundry birdskins.

X. Lt. Forbes, late 2nd B. N. I. A pair of *TETRAOGALLUS TIBETANUS*, Gould.

XI. Lt. Campbell, H. M. 90th Regt. A skin of *DIOMEDEA EXULANS*, L.

XII. His Excellency Earl Canning, Viceroy and Governor-General of India. The carcass of an adult male Giraffe. I much wished to have had this prepared as a stuffed specimen; but owing to the protracted absence from duty of our head taxidermist, the skin could not be properly set up. The skeleton, however, has been preserved; and is that of a considerably larger animal than was the female already mounted as a skeleton, the carcass of which was presented to the Society by Viscount Hardinge.

XIII. Lt.-Col. Nuttall, late in command of the Arakan battalion. A few bottles of snakes, of well known species; and one containing numerous specimens of *TEREDO NAVALIS* extracted from their perforations. A water snake in this collection, new to the Society's museum, is the *ATURIA CAPENOIDES* of Gray's Catalogue of the snakes in the British Museum.

XIV. J. F. Galiffe, Esq. Several living examples of *GECKO VERUS*, from the vicinity of Calcutta.

XV. J. H. Gurney, Esq., M. P., of Catton Hall, near Norwich. Skin of *FALCO PEREGRINUS*, L., from Inverness; *MILVUS ATER*, (Gmelin), ♀ from Tangier, and specimen in immature plumage; *M. AFFINIS*, Gould, from Australia; *GYPIS vulgaris*, Savigny, (*G. Ruppellii*, Pr. Bonap), young, from Natal, *SERINUS MERIDIONALIS*, Pr. Bonap, 2♂ 1♀, from Algeria and *ARDEOLA COMATA*, (Pen.) in winter dress, from Natal.

Mr. Gurney writes—"I have a good series of kites from China and one specimen from Japan; but my series of Indian kites is not so good as it ought to be, and I have none from Ceylon. I have not a



sufficient series of Indian kites to make a satisfactory comparison between them and the Chinese.

"I have one or two small Indian kites which appear to me to be identical with the *MILVUS AFFINIS* of Australia: *M. AFFINIS* I have also received from Macassar; and I have some Chinese kites which appear quite adult and in which the pale streaks have entirely disappeared, as in adult specimens from India.

"I have never yet been able to discover any difference in the plumage of old and young specimens of *M. AFFINIS*—which is remarkable, as there is so great a difference in the case of *M. GOVINDA* and *M. ATER*, and also a difference (though much less) in the case of *M. PARASITICUS*.

"The British Museum contains adult specimens of the Falcon which I presume you identify with *F. CALIDUS* of Latham; but I have a suspicion that the true *F. PEREGRINUS* is sometimes found in India, as well as *F. CALIDUS*.

"Capt. Irby has brought a Falcon from Oudh which appears to Mr. Sclater and myself to belong to an undescribed species intermediate to *F. CALIDUS* and *F. LANARIUS* of Schlegel (*Feldeggi*, auctorum). Besides Capt. Irby's specimen, which he has kindly presented to the Norwich museum, we have two other examples of this Falcon there—one said to be from Abyssinia, the locality of the other unknown. The late E. I. Company's Museum contains a fourth specimen brought from Babylon by the 'Euphrates' exploring expedition. (Since published as *F. BABYLONICUS*, Gurney, in *the Ibis*, Vol. III. p. 218).

"*F. PEREGRINATOR* (as you justly say) is a well marked species, and very distinct from all the above. It is singular that it has never yet (so far as I know) been figured in *fully* adult plumage.

"*F. JUGGUR* belongs to a distinct group, in which are two other species, *viz.* *F. SACER*, Schlegel, = *F. LANARIUS*, auctorum,—and *F. POLYAGRUS* of N. America."\*

\* The more typical Falcons appear to me to resolve into—

1. *Arctic or Jer. Falcons* (excluding certain species from Australia and N. Zealand).

2. *Desert Falcons*. The Lanner group, to which *F. SACER*, *F. JUGGUR*, *F. BABYLONICUS*, and *F. PEREGRINOIDES* appertain; and to which the *IERACIDEA* of Mr. Gould approximates, his supposed two species, being (in Dr. Jerdon's, and my own opinion) in all probability but young and old of the same; as also the alleged 'Jer. Falcons' of the Southern Hemisphere.

3. *Cliff Falcons*: consisting of the Peregrine group.

XVI. H. H. The Maharájá of Burdwán. The stuffed skin of a two headed calf.

XVII. Mr. C. K. Hamilton, Calcutta. A canine tooth of the great 'Elephant-seal,' or 'Sea-elephant' MORUNGA PROBOSCIDEA, (Desmarest).

XVIII. Mr. Morgan. A small common Rat (*MUS DECUMANUS*), with abnormally developed rodent-tusks.

XIX. Major W. A. Anstruther Thomson, Commander of the Viceroy's Body-guard. A Cuttle-fish common in the Bay of Bengal.

XX. Lt. W. G. Murray, Topographical Assistant G. T. Survey. A box of bird skins from the Dholpur and Gwalior territories. The only noteworthy specimen is that of a female *PROPASSER* of Hodgson, which cannot be referred to any of the species hitherto recognised:—

*PR. MURRAYI*, nobis, *n. s.* Most nearly affined perhaps, to *PR. RODOPEPLA* (Vigors) ; but the bill much smaller, shaped more as in *PR. RODOCHROUS*, (Vigors), though more elongated and distinctly approximating in form to that of *PROCARDUELIS*, Hodgson. Colour brown above, paler below, a little rufescent on the rump, belly, and upper and lower tail-feathers ; very indistinctly striated, except on the crown where the feathers have contrasting pale lateral edges : a tolerably distinct rufescent whitish supercilium ; and the throat also rufescent whitish, with dusky spots towards and upon the chin : greater and less wing-coverts pale-tipped, and tertiaries pale-margined, the secondaries much more narrowly pale-margined. Bill and feet corneous. Length about  $6\frac{1}{2}$  in. ; of closed wing 3 in. ; and tail  $2\frac{1}{2}$  in., bill to frontal point  $\frac{9}{16}$  in. The male will, of course prove to be more or less crimson like that of its congeners.

A very fine new species of this Genus has lately been obtained by Lieut. Beavan of the late 62nd B. N. I., on Tonglu mountain (10,000 ft.), on the Sikhim frontier bordering on Nipál ; together with other novelties in the bird class, and several known species that are rare in collections. I avail myself of this opportunity to introduce the former.

*PR. FRONTALIS*, nobis, *n. s.* Most resembling *PR. RODOPEPLA*, (Vigors), but the bill smaller, and the tail longer. Broad frontal band, supercilia, and feathers of cheeks and throat, consisting of elongated plumes, vinaceous with glistening whitish medial line more or less developed, the entire feathers composing the frontal band being thus whitish ; rest nearly as in *PR. RODOPEPLA*, but without the ruddy



tinge above, or the pale spots on centre of back, and the upper tail-coverts (as well as the feathers of the rump) are broadly tipped with rosyvinaceous; crown, nape, and back, deep brown with a blackish central streak to each feather; tertiaries margined with whitish, greater wing-coverts the same towards their tips, and the next range of wing-coverts having each an oval terminal spot; axillaries and under-coverts of the wing white; primaries and tail dusky; bill and feet brown. The female is similar to the male above, but has no frontal band, the supercilia are whitish, and the rump feathers are margined with golden fulvous; throat and breast rufous, the cheeks and sides of the throat and the abdominal region, whitish, with a strongly marked black median line to each feather. Length of wing  $2\frac{1}{4}$  in., of tail 3 in.; tarsus  $\frac{7}{8}$  in. Female rather smaller. From Tonglu mountain.

Also a very fine new species of true Bullfinch, being the fourth now known to inhabit the Himalaya.

*PYRRHULA ERYTHACA*, nobis, *n. s.* Upper parts pure ashy, like the back of *P. VULGARIS*, Ray, also the front of the neck becoming whitish on the throat; pectoral region fine red; the abdominal pale ashy, and the lower tail-coverts white; a broad white band on the rump, as in *P. VULGARIS*, above which is a slight black band, and the upper tail-coverts and tail are rich purple-black, the middle tail feathers being  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. shorter than the outermost; a black ring encircles the bill, and spreads over the loreal region, this ring being bordered and set off with white; wings black, except the smallest coverts which are grey, and a brownish-grey band ( $\frac{1}{2}$  in. broad) tipping the greater coverts; no red mark upon the tertiaries. Bill black and feet pale. Length of wing  $3\frac{3}{8}$  in., and of tail 3 in. This fine species is as large as *P. NIPALENSIS*, Hodgson, and serves to link that somewhat peculiarly coloured species with its congeners. The female is unknown. From Tonglu mountain.

*PARUS BEAVANI*, nobis, *n. s.* Like *P. RUFONUCHALIS*, nobis, of the N. W. Himálaya, but the black much less extended upon the breast as in *P. MELANOLOPHUS*, Vigors; no trace of rufous, on the white nuchal spot, but the axillaries and lower tail-coverts are of this hue. From Tonglu mountain.

*ANTHUS ROSACEUS*, Hodgson. This is not the *A. CERVINUS*, Pallas, of China, Upper Pegu, and also the Andaman islands. The upper parts are much darker, the ear-coverts are duskyish whereas in the other

they are light rufous like the supercilia, which latter are also whitish in the bird from Tonglu, contrasting strongly with the dark crown and ear-coverts. In the other race the supercilia are of the same hue with the lores and cheeks (*A. rufosuperciliaris*, nobis, *passim*). The throat, also, in the Tonglu specimen is much paler than in the other.

A specimen of a *CORYPHEDEA* in Lt. Beavan's collection is of an extraordinary pale grey colour, nearly as in *ALAUDA RAYTAL*, (B. Ham.) ; but I cannot venture to describe it as a distinct race.

*P. S.* The following letter on the *Cetacea* of the Chinese Seas, from R. Swinhoe, Esq., British Consul at Formosa, will be read with interest.

"Some time ago you asked me for information about Whales, in these Seas. I have kept your request in mind, though I have not till now succeeded in meeting with any one who could give me information on the subject. My informant was many years at Swatow, off which port more Whales have been seen than elsewhere on this coast, and I will now narrate what I have been able to gather from him. Whales visit the Straits of Namoa regularly every May. They are mostly *cows*, and are usually accompanied with their calves some 20 or 30 ft. long. Some of the adults attain the length of 70 feet. When the opium ships were anchored off Namoa island, these cetals used to gambol round them in the night-time, making their proximity known by the loud puffing noise they made, which resembled the sound produced by the piston of a steam-engine. In the day-time they were to be seen putting their long heads out of the water and opening their immense jaws. The Captain of a vessel broke the back of one of them with a cannon-shot, and the animal lashed about the water some hours before he died. He drifted on shore eventually on Namoa island, and was cut up by the native Chinese. Some enterprising Americans at Hong-Kong, on hearing of the occurrence of Whales in this Strait, fitted out a *lorcha* for their capture. The whalers landed at Swatow, built huts and erected boiling-vats, and then started to the pursuit. They soon, however, returned from the expedition, saying that the Whales were only *Razor-backs*, the same with those found off San Francisco, which are dangerous creatures to meddle with, and yield too little oil to compensate for the trouble and risk incurred in their capture. The whalers took down their gear and returned to Hong-Kong. These Whales have very large flat heads, and *smooth* backs. Some

ten or eleven years ago American whalers used to rendezvous at Hong-Kong, and thence send their oil to the States ; but the *citizens* that had settled in the colony treated them so badly and cheated them so much, that they now seldom come there, preferring to make their head-quarters at the Sandwich islands.

“ Some time in spring last year a large Whale was stranded on the sand-spit at Takow (Formosa) ; and I hear that scarcely a year passes but one is stranded somewhere in the vicinage of Swatow.

“ In May 1860, I saw a huge beast of the Whale kind thrust himself half out of the water, when I was on my way from Hong-Kong to Amoy in the Mail-Steamer.

“ Of other cetals, I know only of the large *White Porpoise* that visits Amoy and other southerly harbours from the Sea. I have striven in vain to procure specimens, but may yet succeed.”

